

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Norway Substation Land Transfer

Project No.: WO# 00483036

Project Manager: Jay Largo – TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Coos County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to sell Norway Substation to Coos-Curry Electrical Cooperative. The property is comprised of 1.32 acres of BPA fee-owned land. Coos-Curry Electrical Cooperative already owns the adjacent land, which functions as an electrical switchyard and substation for their purposes. All equipment has already been removed from BPA's property as part of a CX review in 2011 (CX-Coos Curry Norway Substation). BPA's Pollution, Prevention & Abatement office has verified the property is clean from pollutants and no further pollution abatement is needed.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, Jul. 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 17, 2019

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

Proposed Action: Norway Substation Land Transfer

Project Site Description

The project area is a 1.32 acre plot of land in rural Coos County, Oregon. The property is located adjacent to Oregon Highway 42, between the towns of Coquille and Norway, approximately 25 miles from Bandon. The site is well developed, including a rocked and fenced former electrical switch yard and gravel access road. The western perimeter of the property is defined by a railroad track. Some low-growing vegetation exists between the developed switchyard area and the railroad track. The surrounding area is primarily agricultural.

BPA decommissioned the electrical switchyard and substation in 2011, including the removal of all equipment, materials, and electrical connections. The facility fence and switchyard rock ground coverage remained, however. The adjacent property functions as an active electrical substation of the Coos-Curry Electrical Cooperative. Coos-Curry Electrical Cooperative plans to acquire this land from BPA to provide operational flexibility for their purposes.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA's archaeologists determined that the proposed project would have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources. A project initiation letter was sent to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Klamath Tribes on January 3, 2019. Subsequently, the determination letter and a supporting report were sent to the same parties on April 4, 2019. On May 2, 2019, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this determination. The Coquille Indian Tribe responded to the project initiation letter on January 28, 2019, but did not respond to BPA's determination of no effect. The Klamath Tribes responded to both the project initiation letter and determination of no effect letter on January 8, 2019, and April 12, 2019, respectively, and stated the project is located outside their aboriginal territories. BPA did not receive a response from the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians for either the initiation or on BPA's determination of no effect.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land transfer.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land transfer and no plants would be impacted as a direct result of this land transfer.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land transfer and no wildlife habitat would be impacted as a direct result of this land transfer.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land transfer and no water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or field work would occur as a result of this land transfer and no wetlands would be impacted.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No construction activities or ground disturbance would occur as a result of this land transfer.

8. **Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas**

Explanation: The ownership of this land would be transferred to a local Coos-Curry Electrical Cooperative who would continue to use the land under its current land use designation after the sale.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No visual modifications to the land or surrounding area would occur as a result of this land transfer.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No construction activities or other activities that may impact air quality would occur as a result of this land transfer.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No construction activities or other activities that may create noise would occur as a result of this land transfer.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No construction activities or other activities that may impact human health and safety would occur as a result of this land transfer.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The property is currently BPA fee-owned.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum
Michael Henjum – ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 17, 2019